

Subj: TRY TO FAX THIS FOR ME.
Date: 02/17/2000 12:34:14 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: JBaum714
To: CheyZeePah

RECEIVED

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FEB 21 2000

To: Ms. Wendy R. Dixon, EIS Project Manager
M/S 010
U.S. Dept. of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

By e-mail (<http://www.ymmp.gov>.) and fax (1-800-967-0739) and U.S. Mail

Dear Ms. Dixon;

I've heard that the time to file complaints about this has been extended because the fax machines, e-mails and Mail has been overloading your office. THAT MUST BE A MESSAGE TO YOU. THIS IS NOT A GOOD IDEA.

Seven Reasons to Vote Against S1287

S1287 Threatens Public Health And Safety

This bill strips the Environmental Protection Agency of its authority to protect public health by setting a radiation release standard for a nuclear waste repository. S1287 will hand this authority over to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), which has already shown with its proposed standard that it is only interested in satisfying the nuclear industry. President Clinton has promised to veto S1287 because it does not ensure the protection of public health and safety.

S1287 Ignores Scientific Evidence That Yucca Mountain Is Not A Safe Place To Store Radioactive Waste

Earthquakes are a common occurrence in the Yucca Mountain region, with 621 occurring at magnitudes of 2.5 or higher within 50 miles of the Yucca Mountain site from 1976 to 1996. In 1992, a 5.6 earthquake struck on a previously unmapped fault line only eight miles from the repository study site, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages to a Department of Energy building.

S1287 Would Launch The Largest Nuclear Waste Shipment Campaign In World History

The bill's "backup storage" provision could put nuclear waste on our roads and rails as early as 2007, beginning a transportation program of 100,000 shipments of nuclear waste through 43 states for 25 years, and exposing 50 million Americans to dangerous levels of radiation in their communities. Radioactive waste would be shipped through over 100 cities, with populations of 100,000 or more. The Department of Energy projects that a nuclear waste transportation accident with a small release of radioactive material (1380 curies) in a rural area would contaminate 42 square miles and require 460 days to clean up at a cost of \$620 million. To view the potential truck and rail transportation routes in your state, visit the Atomic Atlas web site at www.citizen.org/cmep (click on the Atomic Atlas icon).

Environmental Groups Oppose S1287

Over 200 environmental organizations petitioned the DOE to disqualify Yucca Mountain from consideration as a permanent repository for nuclear waste in November 1998. In addition, environmental groups are specifically opposed to S1287 because of its blatant sacrifice of public health and environmental standards to appease the nuclear industry.

S1287 Threatens Groundwater Resources

S1287 WOULD HAVE THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) SET THE radiation release standards for Yucca Mountain. The

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NRC has published a draft standard and specifically refused to set a separate standard for radiation release into groundwater. This decision not to protect groundwater is a result of recent scientific evidence showing that radionuclides from the nuclear waste storage site could leak into the aquifer below Yucca Mountain, thus contaminating the region's sole source of drinking water. The NRC has made it clear that they are willing to reduce their standards in order to ensure that Yucca Mountain can meet them.

S1287 Goes Against U.S. Non-Proliferation Policy

S1287 will establish an "Office of Spent Nuclear Fuel Research" with the mission of researching and developing technologies to reprocess irradiated nuclear fuel. Further, this office would fund and collaborate with other countries that want to develop these same technologies. Reprocessing technologies could be used to produce weapons-usable material and are contrary to more than 20 years of U.S. non-proliferation policy.

S1287 Perpetuates 50 Years of Bad Nuclear Policy

Rather than continuing to allow politics alone to shape America's decisions about nuclear energy and nuclear waste, Congress should initiate a comprehensive review of federal nuclear policy. Lawmakers should commit to making decisions based on sound science, citizen involvement, and protection of public and environmental health. S1287 will not allow this—it is a bill written by the nuclear industry for the nuclear industry, and it forces bad decisions in order to perpetuate bad policy.

Sincerely,

Jan Baumgartner
917 Brownell
Glendale, MO 63122

(Less than 1 mile from one of the railroad lines, and between two highways that this is to be transported on)